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BUCKLEYS TRAGEDY

BUCKLEYS ESTATE, OF FRIDAY 31st Jan. 1975 has assumed a new historical significance, which reaches far deeper than the mere transfer of the ownership of land from the Old Planter Class to the Cabinet of Robert Llewellyn Bradshaw and Lee Llewellyn Moore. Buckleys Estate of last Friday has presented to our people the curious situation in which the conflict which has now been decided is not between the Government and the Planter Class, but between the Government and its own aggressive and assertive People.

BUCKLEYS Estate of 1975 has reinforced the truth that Robert Bradshaw, Lee Moore and Fitzroy Bryant are as different from true liberators of the people as chalk is different from cheese.

BUCKLEYS Estate is the shame of Joseph Nathaniel France who in his early years enlisted in the struggle against the very Planter Class of which he has now allowed himself to have been an active member.

AND Buckleys Estate is the final frustration of Caleb Azariah Paul Southwell who, in his more lucid younger days, prophesied for a new St. Kitts which would "rise out of the ashes" of the Old Plantocracy.

Buckleys Estate is a gross and shameless contradiction by Robert Bradshaw and his colleagues to all the aspirations and hopes of the very people whose lives were sacrificed in the last of the many riots which made St. Kitts the famous land where workers and slaves never reconciled themselves to oppression.

The landowners are the least offended by the ceremonies of Buckleys. And the figure of 10 million dollars, notwithstanding the replaced owners will get by recourse to the court, a more generous price for their land, and they can now breathe the sighs of relief and revel in the role of passive observers while the Cabinet fulfils its mission of oppression and deprivation against the real victims of the Buckleys Episode—the heirs of those who stood in the vanguard of the fight of 1935.

In their search for a better land, they have methodically and quietly prepared themselves for the very development which Buckleys has now frustrated.

DISENCHANTED by the unproductive careers of their parents on the sugar estates, they turned their backs on that life, and, refusing to give their services to the estate, they either went to the trades and professions or took their journey to the far countries where they have waited patiently for the moment when the land owners who employed their parents would offer them for sale the land on which their ancestors toiled. The moment came. And Kittitians in the Virgin Islands, in New York, Canada, England, who have saved their money to purchase Land in St. Kitts have bestirred themselves to the news that the planters were ready to sell.

THOSE who made a success by living at home acted likewise capitalising on their humble beginnings and using the new banking policies to ready themselves to own a share of the land from which the Planters were ready to abdicate.

THIS is the development which the Government has sought to arrest and no matter how much Buckleys is glossed, the veneer will never hide the true intentions of the Premier in his sudden hurry to become the sole controller of the land of the country.

THE truth is not that Mr. Bradshaw cares about the sugar industry. If he did, he would have raised himself since 1968 to divert it from its present state of deterioration.

The truth is politics. The present problems of Anguilla and Nevis are rooted in the independent spirit of the Anguillan and Nevisian—a spirit which is nurtured by peasant ownership of land. Whatever else is wrong with Robert Bradshaw he is no fool, and can appreciate that every Kittitian who achieves the level of personal independence enjoyed by Anguillans and Nevisians would shed his "Papa Bradshaw syndrome" and the posture spirit of servility which attaches to it.

THE evidence is clear that if Kittitians were ever to advance where an annual sugar bonus, and a windfall every 15 years mean nothing to them, they would awake from the hypnotism of the man who knows better than most people that if the exiled Kittitian returned to claim a part of this land, he would have a very different type of mentality to deal with.

HEREIN is the true interpretation not only of Buckleys but of West Farm not far away.

SERGEANT FALLS FROM HEIGHT

On Thursday this week the neighbourhood of the St. Johnston Village Police Station received their early morning shock when the news sped through the area that Sergeant Smith, Officer in Charge of the Station, had fallen from the upper storey of the building.

The Sergeant was standing on the Station verandah when the rail on which he leaned gave away and sent him crashing to the concreted ground.

He was rushed unconsciously to the J.N.F. General Hospital by the Police Van which was on the spot when the mishap took place.

This misfortune has struck many observers as surprising since the police station is a newly built structure and no one expected a rail which ought to have been welded and bolted to give away so easily.

Singing Methodists Visit

A group of Methodists from St. Thomas who will be visiting the State, will render a sacred concert at the Wesley Methodist Church in Basseterre on Sunday, 16th February at 7.30 p. m.

This group which consists mainly of natives of St. Kitts and Nevis has thought of this way of spending their vacation at home. They will go over to Nevis on the following day where they hope to repeat their performance. A small charge of \$1.00 for adults and 50 cents for children will be collected.

A large audience is expected to attend both functions.

Best wishes to the visiting brethren and sisters.